

REMARKS

Claims 2-23 are pending in the application. Claims 8-14 have been allowed, Claims 2-4 and 15-23 have been canceled, and Claim 5 has been amended, leaving Claims 5-14 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 2-4 and 15-23 have been cancelled in an effort to expedite allowance of the application. These claims have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicant's rights thereto, including Applicant's right to file a continuation application based thereon.

Claim 5 has been rewritten as an independent claim comprising all of the limitations from Claim 3, and as such is allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance of the entire case is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 5-7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As noted above, Claim 5 has been rewritten as an independent claim comprising all of the limitations from Claim 3. Accordingly, independent Claim 5 is allowable. Moreover, as dependent claims from an allowable independent claim, Claims 6-7 are, by definition, also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the entire case.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Prior Art of figures 1, 2A-2B in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,194,837 to Ozawa.

This rejection is moot, as Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claims 3-4, 15-18, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Prior Art of figures 1-2 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,759,610 to Yanagisawa.

YKI-0056
09/676,234

This rejection is moot, as Claims 3-4, 15-18, and 23 have been cancelled.

Claims 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Prior Art of figures 1-2 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,194,837 to Ozawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,450 to Yamada.

This rejection is moot, as Claims 19-22 have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 

Joel T. Charlton

Registration No. 52,721

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

55 Griffin Road South

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Telephone (860) 286-2929

Facsimile (860) 286-0115

Customer No. 23413

November 1, 2004

YKI-0056
09/676,234